

submitted new claims 23-45. Newly submitted claims are supported by Applicant's initial application as found at page 6, lines 21-24.

APPLICANT'S ARGUMENTS (CLAIMS 1-22)

Applicant herein argues that patent number 4,227,366 issued to Pucher as cited by Examiner herein does not anticipate applicant's invention under 35 U.S.C. 102 as argued by Examiner based on the following:

1. The gathering chain sprocket 43 as taught by Pucher has eight (8) teeth per gathering chain sprocket 43. Applicant submits herein in Appendix I the right half of Figure 2 as found in Pucher, magnified by 25% to better allow review of gathering chain sprocket 43 of Pucher.
2. Pucher typifies the teachings of the prior art for gathering chain speed as quoted by applicant at page 6, lines 20-27. Applicant's invention therefore modifies and improves the corn head row unit as taught by Pucher by reduction of gathering chain speed to reduce stalk shear.
3. Pucher improves upon the prior art by inclusion of slip clutch 80 for each row unit 30. The purpose of the slip clutch 80 is to provide protection for the entire drive system 60, should the "gathering means 40 of any one of the row units 30 [become] clogged with crop material". (See Pucher, Col. 4, Lines 7-15.) The teachings of Pucher indicate that clogging the row unit with harvest material is indeed a problem – a problem that Pucher solves through introduction of a slip clutch 80. Applicant solves this problem through reduction of stalk shear, thereby reducing material that clogs the row unit.
4. In claim 10, applicant claims and describes 10 an improved arrangement of a corn head row unit wherein the row unit has a shear point 135 with a rounded edge. See Figures 7-10. Pucher in contrast teaches a V-shaped cut-off 99 between the deck plates 96 adjacent the box beam 50 [to] provide a means for cutting the crop

material. (Pucher, Col. 5, lines 21-25, Emp. Added) The purpose and teaching of applicant's shear point 135 with a rounded edge is to avoid cutting the stalk, thereby minimizing what is known as "hair-pinning" of the stalks upon the deck plate.

Applicant is teaching avoidance of cutting stalks to reduce material that plugs the row unit. Pucher is teaching a V-shaped cut-off 99, with the objective of increasing the ability to shear or cut-off the stalk, thereby increasing potential for plugging at the row unit from crop material. Thus, Pucher's solution to apply the V-shaped cut-off 99 only accentuates the problem that is solved by Applicant's invention.

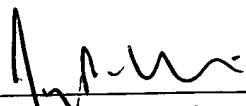
5. The Pucher prior art cannot inherently teach applicant's invention when Pucher's structure is different and Pucher's description indicates a lack of understanding of the problem solved by Applicant.

REMARKS

Applicant believes he has fully responded to the examiners arguments and rejections with regard to the present patent application. Applicant requests the examiner consider the enclosed response and reconsider allowing the patent application. Should the examiner not allow the claims as resubmitted, applicant requests a telephonic conference at the convenience of the examiner to discuss the teachings, references and claims.

Respectfully submitted,
MARION CALMER,

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